This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

PRAYERS
FOR
MOTHERS'
MEETINGS

138. g.
396.

600102683Q

PRAYERS

FOR

MOTHERS' MEETINGS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"BRIGHT GLIMPSES FOR MOTHERS' MEETINGS."

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."—JOHN xiv. 13, 14.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

LONDON:
JAMES NISBET & CO 21 BERNERS STREET.
1869.

138. g 396

PREFATORY REMARKS.

In the year 1868, "Bright Glimpses for Mothers' Meetings" was published, in prayerful hope and humble confidence that it might be the means, through God's goodness, "who hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty," of strengthening the hands of those who are engaged in that deeply interesting work

—*the Mothers' Meeting,* and also of leading others to commence it who had not previously thought of doing so.

This little volume, "Bright Glimpses," &c., has met with so kind and cordial a reception, that I am encouraged further to seek the promotion of its object by publishing (at the request of many friends) a manual of prayers for Mothers' Meetings and adult female Bible Classes.

There are many who can conduct a Mothers' Meeting, or a Bible Class of women, and engage their interest, and enlist their sympathy; but when the closing comes, and the united prayer—that blessed bond of union—has to be offered, the inability to clothe in suit-

able words the desired petitions is painfully felt, and discouragement, in several instances which have come under my own notice, ensues.

I will not attempt to analyse the cause of that *choking sensation,* and *hurried pulsation,* and *throbbing heart,* which so many feel when called upon to offer up an extempore prayer. I simply state an acknowledged experience. *That* God, who condescended to supply a mouth to His trembling and fearful servant of old, saying, "Even He shall be to thee instead of a mouth," "knoweth our frame, and remembereth that we are dust." I humbly pray that in this little undertaking I may be permitted to be as "a hewer of wood and drawer of

water" to those who are working for that blessed Master "who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities;" and with the earnest hope that "Prayers for Mothers' Meetings and Scripture Readings" may be graciously owned of God and be as a mouth-piece to many a praying mother, it is sent forth by

A MOTHER.

PRAYERS

FOR

MOTHERS' MEETINGS.

On the opening of the Mothers' Meeting, one or other of these short Prayers may be used.

Oh, heavenly Father, we have now met together in thy name. Without Thee nothing is strong, nothing is holy. We beseech Thee to be very present with us, and bless to *each one* of us this Mothers' Meeting. Open our hearts to receive Thy Word which

we are about to hear. Give us, by thy grace, a teachable spirit, that we may profit by the instruction given; and may we return to our homes, strengthened and refreshed, to serve Thee more earnestly, and live more to thy glory, than we have ever yet done. We ask all in the name and for the sake of our dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious Saviour, who didst when on earth draw near to thy disciples, and "talked with them by the way," be very present with us now, and give us, we beseech Thee, thy blessing at this our Mothers' Meeting, and make it a time of great profit to our souls. Enlighten our understandings to understand the Scriptures which we shall hear, and

grant us thy Holy Spirit, that our hearts may be filled with love to Thee, and with earnest desires to glorify Thee in that state of life in which Thou hast been pleased to call us. Hear us, we beseech Thee, gracious Saviour, for thy mercies' sake. Amen.

PRAYER I.

O God, our Father, we would now come into thy Holy Presence, humbly and in simple faith. Thou hast invited us to draw near to Thee in the name of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and now, as a little company, we approach Thee in all our weakness and helplessness.

First, heavenly Father, we wish to

praise Thee for all thy goodness, which is so great and has never failed us from the hour we were born. Thou hast followed us with thy goodness, and not been weary of blessing us. But chiefly we adore Thee for thy redeeming love in Christ Jesus; without this we must have been lost for ever.

O God, we are sinners in thy sight, sinners by nature, for we are born in sin, and many are our sins of thought, and word, and deed. Forgive us, Lord, all our transgressions; blot them out as a thick cloud from thy sight, and look upon us in the Son of thy love. Grant to *each one of us* a saving interest in the salvation of Jesus, and in thy free mercy give *now* unto us thy Holy Spirit to sanctify, guide, and teach us. O Lord, how

much we need, and all must come from Thee. Give us, we beseech Thee, the *desire* to serve Thee, and then the *grace* to do so. Enable us to resist the devil when he comes to us with his different temptations. Lord, Thou knowest how hard we find it to do this, how often we are overtaken with sin. Thou art looking down upon us now,—Thou, and Thou *only,* knowest exactly all about us, and our families, and our troubles, and our different characters, and our particular temptations; thy wonderful eye of love can take in *all.* Blessed Jesus, give each one of us just what Thou seest we need,—grace to overcome our special sins. Give us to know Thee more and more, and so to trust in Thee that we may tell Thee *everything,* and bring all our daily cares as wives and

mothers, and lay them before Thee, and *leave them with Thee.*

We thank Thee for permitting us to meet thus together in kindly sympathy, to strengthen and comfort each other. May we *all* meet in thy kingdom of glory, not *one* of us absent there.

O God, bless our dear husbands; make them to be God-fearing men, strengthen them to resist sin, and pour into their hearts thy Holy Spirit.

Bless our beloved children; teach us, we pray Thee, to train them aright, day by day. We bring them, *each one,* in faith to Thee. Receive and guard them, and make them to seek and to find Jesus as their Redeemer, and their eternal great reward.

Look with mercy, we beseech Thee,

on the sick, the widow, the fatherless, and the afflicted.

Go with us, gracious Father, to our homes. Let the light of thy countenance rest on us there, and bless all whom we love.

Accept this our humble prayer, for the sake of our blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

PRAYER II.

GREAT GOD, and heavenly Father! once more we would all unite in heartfelt prayer to Thee. When we think of thy gracious promise to the weary and heavy laden, that when they come to Thee Thou wilt give them rest, our hearts rejoice, and are glad, and we are not afraid to pour out our wants to Thee.

We adore Thee, blessed Jesus, for thy redeeming love in dying for us, and for thy great goodness in giving us to hear of Thee; many live and die

without knowing thy blessed Name. What are we that Thou shouldst have permitted us to hear the gospel, to know the offers of salvation, and thus, to meet as a band of mothers, to praise and pray together.

Blessed Jesus, we wish now to confess how utterly unworthy we are of thy goodness. We have nothing to bring to Thee. Our sins are many and great. When we look into our hearts we find how dead and cold they are, and how taken up with the trials and cares of this world.

This day we wish earnestly to ask for thy Holy Spirit to be poured out upon us mothers. We feel we must not rest satisfied with our present state. Quicken our cold hearts, stir up our weak faith, revive us, O God. Come, Holy Spirit, into *each* of our souls;

pour down on *each one* of us thy grace and peace; show us the things of Jesus. Thou didst quicken us when we were dead in trespasses and sins. Thou didst teach us our need of a Saviour when we knew it not. Oh, grant to us *now* more to realise His love. Enable us by thy power to see with more and more faith the merits of His precious blood. Open our understandings to understand spiritual things. Make us to feel that *holiness is happiness.* Holy Spirit, dwell *in* us; be the Spirit of Power, for we are weak; the Spirit of Wisdom, for we are ignorant; the Spirit of Holiness, for we are sinful; and grant, we earnestly beg of Thee, that, in our every-day life as wives and mothers, the fruits of the Spirit may be seen in us. Keep us from grieving Thee by sin. Give us tender consciences. Make

us afraid of sin, and watchful against it.

[O Lord, we tremble to think that amongst our band of mothers there may be one, or more, yet ignorant of Thee. Speak with mighty power, by thy Holy Spirit, to the soul of such a one. Awaken her *now.* O Lord, let a sense of thy redeeming love melt her heart, and bring her as a penitent to Thee, and then bind up the broken heart, and fill her with joy and peace in believing.] *

Heavenly Father, not only for ourselves do we pray for the Holy Spirit, but for our husbands, our children, and our families. Grant to *each* the promised gift of the Comforter.

Pour out upon this place thy Holy Spirit. May many be brought to know

* To be used at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Thee, and to live to thy glory. Bless all the ministers of thy gospel. Bless also all the means of grace here and elsewhere. Oh, hasten the happy day when the Spirit shall be poured out on all flesh, and all shall know Thee from the least even to the greatest.

Dismiss us now, Lord, with thy blessing, and hear us, for the sake of our dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

May grace, and mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour, and from the Holy Ghost the Comforter, be unto us, and all who belong to us, now, and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER III.

HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God, enable us now, we beseech Thee, to come reverently and humbly into thy presence. Thou hast promised to draw near to those who draw near to Thee. We are a band of mothers full of need. Help us in faith to spread that need before Thee, in the name, and for the sake of thy dear Son, our only Saviour. We pray Thee to bless our meeting to-day. Assist us by thy Spirit in this our united prayer that we may ask for such things as please Thee. Bless to each of us thy Holy Word which has now been read. May it sink into *each* of our hearts, and make us to say as we go home, "It was good for me to be there." May thy

Word ever gladden our souls, its hopes of glory rejoice us, and its holy precepts guide us, day by day.

We desire, heavenly Father, now to pray to Thee, in a very special manner, for our children, and this we would do in humble reliance on thy Bible promises made to us through our Saviour. Oh, heavenly Father, who hast given to us our dear children, give them thy blessing, and pour upon them thy Holy Spirit. We pray for our little ones who are still under our own eye and training. Sow in their hearts, O Lord, the seed of eternal life, and grant that, as they grow in years, they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Lord, Thou knowest all about us, and how difficult we find it to bring up our children in the right

way, and we grieve to think how many mistakes we make, and how we often set them a bad example. Heavenly Father, we come to Thee in all our motherly weakness; give us more grace to train up our dear children aright by example and by teaching. Let them see that *we* love thy blessed Word and prayer, and that we daily strive to serve Thee. Lord, let us not provoke our children to wrath by partiality, or ill-temper, nor let us be blind to their faults, nor afraid of telling them when we see them doing wrong. Look, O God, upon our grown-up sons, they are so dear to us. Some amongst us have soldier sons; let them live as soldiers of the Lord Jesus, keep their conscience tender, and if they stray in the broad road, O Jesus, fetch them home in thy pity into thy fold. Some

of us have sailor sons; keep them on the stormy ocean, be with them as Thou wast with the fishermen of Galilee. Shield *all* our sons from danger, keep them from sin. We would also pray for our dear grown-up daughters. Jesus, Thou knowest how surrounded they are by temptations. Some amongst us may have shed bitter tears about them. Bring back each wandering one to the path of peace. Lead them all, like Mary, to choose the better part, keeping them from sin, vanity, and forgetfulness of Thee. Save *all* our dear children. Let not *one* of them remain ignorant of eternal salvation. O God, bind them and us to Thee, and fit us all day by day for that change which cannot be very far off to any one of us.

Accept our thanksgiving for all thine

undeserved mercies, forgive us all our sins, and grant that, as families, we may live before Thee. Bless all whom we would remember in our prayers, and this we ask, for the sake of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon us, and upon all whom we should remember, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER IV.

O God, our Father in heaven, help us to come to Thee, humbly and reverently, and yet with confidence. Thou hast encouraged us to praise

Thee in the name of thy dear Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, for thy goodness and mercy, and to ask Thee for all that we want. May we never mock Thee by empty words of prayer, while our hearts are thinking of worldly things, but enable us to draw near to Thee, and worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

We confess that we are sinners, we have broken thy law, and deserve eternal death. Forgive us, because Jesus Christ has suffered for our sins, and died, the Just for the unjust, that they might be blotted out. Thy love gave us a Saviour. Oh, let that love now give us for His sake the Holy Spirit, to help us to believe in Him, and become thy obedient, happy people.

We do not, Lord, trust in anything

we can do to deserve thy mercy. We cast away our own righteousness as "filthy rags." Helpless, we come to Thee for grace; ignorant, we look to Thee for wisdom. Heavenly Father, give us all that is good for us, all that will make us good, all that will help us to do good to our husbands, our children, our relations, and our neighbours. Teach us, we pray Thee, that we may understand thy holy Word. May it be a light to our path, and may we love and honour it more and more. We have, O Lord, Thou knowest, many difficulties, and many temptations and troubles. Guide us, and help us, we earnestly beseech Thee. If trial or sickness be sent, give us patience, and enable us to say, "Thy will be done."

Bless, Lord, our dear children; help

us to bring them up in the right way, and to pray much for them. Make them true and honest, loving and obedient.

Blessed Saviour! hear us, mothers, when we plead with Thee to-day for the *motherless,* and for those who have none to pray for them. Pity the neglected outcasts who have no tender care, no sheltered home, no daily bread, no one on earth to care for their souls. Thou knowest them every one. Snatch them from the paths of the Destroyer, and bring them home, blessed Lord, to thy fold.

Bless our Queen, let her reign in thy fear, and by thy laws. Bless the Royal Family. Grant that hereafter *each one of them* may have a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Bless all missionaries, we beseech

Thee, who are labouring in distant lands, far from their homes. Strengthen, cheer, and comfort them under all their difficulties, and shield them from danger.

Look, holy Saviour, especially upon the sick, the suffering, the lonely, and the poor. Oh, let thy love cheer the afflicted in the workhouse, the sick and suffering in the hospital, and the dying who are now treading the valley of the shadow of death. Hasten that day when sin and sorrow shall be known no more, and all tears shall be wiped away. Hear this our imperfect prayer, and go with us, we beseech Thee, to our homes, to bless and keep us, and all dear to us, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

PRAYER V.

Most gracious and merciful Lord God, our Creator and our Saviour, we humbly draw near to Thee. Teach us how to pray in simple, believing faith. As sinners, Lord, and full of need, we come with one heart and voice to call upon Thee. Send us not empty away. We praise Thee for all Thou hast done, and art willing to do for us, weak and sinful mothers. Thou hast been—oh, so far better to us than our fears. Thou hast often made us feel ashamed at ever doubting thy

love. Thou hast watched over us, Lord, since the day we were born, and kept us alive when so many around us have died whom we once knew. Some of us, blessed Jesus, are, as Thou knowest, widows; and we have at times felt as though we were cast off, and forgotten; but Thou hast not "forgotten to be gracious." Thou hast provided for us, and for our fatherless ones. We praise Thee for thy goodness; and many of us have looked on our large families, and been tempted almost to despair; but when we cried unto Thee, Thou heardst us and helped us; for this we praise Thee. Thou hast raised up some of our husbands from beds of sickness, and spared them to us. For this, and ten thousand other mercies, we praise Thee, O our God.

Heavenly Father, we are so sinful, more than any one on earth knows, and if any of us do not feel this, it is because Satan hath blinded our eyes. We wish, humbly and sincerely, to confess to Thee that we have sinned very much since we last met, in ways known only to Thee and ourselves. How often have we felt angry, spoken hastily, and acted without thinking of thy will; and, above all, Thou knowest how cold our hearts are towards Thee. We have not forgotten our husbands, but we have forgotten Thee. We have cared for our children, but have not thought upon Thee. We have remembered our work-days, but we have not sufficiently thought of thy Sabbath-day to keep it holy. Jesus, cast us not away from thy presence, take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

"Turn us, and we shall be turned; draw us, and we shall run after Thee." Give us, we beseech Thee, more and more love to thy holy Word. May we never be tempted to neglect it. Lord Jesus, make us to love prayer. May we, who are so weak, get strength by it. Give us grace to teach our children to pray, and to love thy Word. And, heavenly Father, enable us, in our own homes, to worship Thee in *family prayer* with our husbands and our children, reading daily thy blessed Word, and praying *together* to Thee, the hearer of prayer.

We thank Thee for permitting us to have this happy Mothers' Meeting. Let *each one* of us who meet here meet together with joy before the Lord at His coming. Convert, strengthen, and bless each of our

number, and our families, and especially bless abundantly all those who labour amongst us for our good. In watering others, may their own souls be watered. Hear us in this our united prayer, we beseech Thee, O Lord, for our blessed Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with each one of us, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER VI.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who never hast, and never wilt, cast away any who come to Thee through Christ

Jesus, we reverently approach Thee now. We thank Thee for this fresh opportunity of coming before Thee as a band of mothers, unitedly to pray to Thee. We earnestly beg of Thee to bless these meetings, and grant that thy Holy Spirit may be shed abroad upon us each time we thus meet in thy name.

Heavenly Father, increase our faith. May we learn, day by day, to trust Thee more truly, to know Thee more as a God of infinite love. Give us grace to mention everything to Thee in prayer. O God! give to each of us here present a more deep repentance, that our sins may be mourned over with godly sorrow, and may it be our daily desire to do only what pleases Thee. Clothe us with humility. We are, we know, by nature so

proud and self-willed. Change our hearts, and make us daily to say, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have us to do?"

We pray for our children. May they grow up in thy faith and fear, remembering thy Sabbaths to keep them holy. Make them to love thy House of Prayer, and to live fearing Thee, and doing to all as they would they should do unto them.

We pray for our husbands. Watch over them, day by day, at their work. Help them to refuse the evil, and to choose the good. Keep their souls in safety from the snares and temptations of the devil, and the ungodly.

We pray for our neighbours, and for all around us. Teach us to bear one another's burdens, to be kindly affectioned one towards another, and

thus grow daily more and more like our Divine Master, who has commanded us to follow His steps.

We bless thee, Lord, and Father of mercies, for the many comforts with which we are surrounded. Though we have to work hard, and sometimes feel very weary and anxious, yet every day brings fresh blessings and mercies to each of us. We humbly beseech Thee, of thy great goodness, to make us more thankful. We are often tempted to complain, and think our lot a hard one, but Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Continue to us, we beseech Thee, thy loving-kindness, and in all our wants and weaknesses, comfort our souls with thy help. Grant, we beseech Thee, to each of us a sure

hope and lively trust in thy redeeming love.

When all seems to be going well with us, then keep us very humble, and hold Thou us up when trial and sickness come upon us. Suffer us not ever to be ashamed of Thee, or of thy people.

Go with us now, O God, to our homes, and make us households serving Thee, and rejoicing in thy love. Hear this prayer, we beseech Thee, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep us, that we may so live in this life, that in the world to come we may have life everlasting. Amen.

A Prayer for any Member absent through Bereavement and Trial.

O God, who hast commanded us to pray one for another, look upon her who is absent from us to-day. We earnestly beseech Thee to have mercy upon her in this time of her great sorrow. Sustain her weary spirit, uphold her by thy gracious arm, let not her faith fail, but let her hear Thee speaking to *her* in the promises of thy Word, saying, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee." Bless, O God, this affliction to her, and in her darkest hour may Jesus be precious to her soul. Enable her to cast her load of care on Him, and cause her to

say, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted." Heavenly Father, we leave her in thy gracious hands. Comfort her "as one whom his mother comforteth," and bless her now and for ever. All which we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for any Member absent through Sickness.

BLESSED JESUS, we pray Thee to look upon her who is absent from us to-day through sickness. In the days of thy flesh, Thou wast the healer of the sick. "Thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." Oh, look pitifully upon her. Make Thou all her bed in her sickness. Cheer her with

thy gracious presence through the weary hours of sleeplessness, or suffering. Draw very near, and reveal thy love to her.

Give her, we beseech Thee, all that is needful, and supply her wants of body as well as soul. Bless this sickness not only to herself but to all around who are witnesses of her faith and patience.

If it be thy good will, raise her up again, we pray thee, and grant that she may be spared to glorify Thee with her soul and body, which are Thine. Hear us, blessed Jesus, for thy mercies' sake. Amen.

EDINBURGH: PRINTED BY SANSON AND CO.